

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /079 W

-----090633Z 105512 /20

O R 090445Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6205

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 9095

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESIDENT AILING; CANCELS VISITS TO PHILIPPINES
AND BURMA

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THIS MORNING (FEB 9) THAT INDIAN
PRESIDENT SRI FAKHARUDDIN ALI AHMED, CURRENTLY ON FOUR-DAY
STATE VISIT HERE, IS SUFFERING FROM "EXHAUSTION," FORCING
CANCELLATION REMAINING ACTIVITIES ON HIS AGENDA AS WELL AS
SCHEDULED VISITS TO MANILA AND RANGOON. PRESIDENT
FAKHARUKKIN'S DEPARTURE HAS BEEN POSTPONED A DAY (TO
THURSDAY, FEB 10) TO ALLOW HIM ADDITIONAL REST. HIS
PERSONAL PHYSICIAN REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH EXHAUSTED, HE IS
"ALL RIGHT" AND FEELONG"VERY MUCH BETTER."

2. PRESIDENT FAKHARUKKIN, ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND 45 MAN
ENTOURAGE, RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT ON HIS ARRIVAL
HERE. THEY WERE GREETED BY THE KING AND QUEEN AND
INTRODUCED TO PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN

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AND DATIN SUHAILA AND OTHER GOM LUMINEARIES.
ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE PRESIDENT FELL ILL INCLUDED
STATE BANQUET IN THEIR HONOR AT THE PALACE AND OTHER
CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS AND MEETINGS. CANCELLED
FUNCTIONS INCLUDED VISIT TO PENANG AND TOUR OF
INDIA-MALAYSIA TEXTILE MILL, A RETURN BANQUET FOR
THE KING AND QUEEN, AND A ROUND OF GOLF PRIOR TO

HIS PLANNED DEPARTURE FOR MANILA.

3. COMMENT: VISIT HAS RECEIVED PROMINENT
MEDICA COVERAGE AND IS VIEWED BY LOCAL OBSERVERS
AS LARGELY CEREMONIAL, SYMBOLOZING HISTORIC LINKS
BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, THEIR PRESENT ASSOCIATION
IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THEIR ECONOMIC TIES.
FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN REPORTEDLY
HAD A SPECIAL AFFECTION FOR LATER PRIME MINISTER
NEHRU, WHO HE HAD MET FREQUENTLY, BUT HIS SUCCESSOR,
LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK, PLACED GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE
ISLAMIC NATIONS AND HENCE WAS FELT TO BE MORE ORIENTED
TO PAKISTAN THAN INDIA. PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN
ONN WAS TRAINED AT DEHRA DUN AD SERVED AS AN OFFICER
IN THE INDIAN ARMY IN WW II. MANY BELIEVE, THEREFORE,
THAT HE ATTACHES GREATER IMPORTANCE TO RELATIONS WITH
INDIAN THAN DID HIS PRECEDESSOR. FROM A PUBLIC
RLATIONS POINT OF VIEW, FAKHARUKKIN'S VISIT IS
UNDOUBTELY A PLUS FOR THE GOI, SINCE IT REMINDS
THE PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM MALAYSIAN POPULACE THAT
INDIA'S HEAD OF STATE IS A FELLOW MUSLIM.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, HEALTH, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUALA09095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770045-1061
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770259/aaaacadi.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22e018c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3367547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN PRESIDENT AILING: CANCELS VISITS TO PHILIPPINES AND BURMA
TAGS: PFOR, MY, IN, RP, BM, (AHMED, FAKHRUDDIN ALI)
To: STATE NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22e018c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009